

American Indians, Department of the Interior.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 2368. A bill to authorize studies on water supply management and development; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2369. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to waive federal preemption of State law providing for the awarding of punitive damages against motor carriers for engaging in unfair or deceptive trade practices in the processing of claims relating to loss, damage, injury, or delay in connection with transportation of property in interstate commerce; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr.

ROTH, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LOTT, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BOND, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GORTON, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 2370. A bill to designate the Federal Building located at 500 Pearl Street in New York City, New York, as the "Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2371. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cibacron Red LS-BHC; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2372. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cibacron Brilliant Blue FN-G; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2373. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cibacron Scarlet LS-2G HC; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2374. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain TAED chemicals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2375. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on a certain polymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2376. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on isobornyl acetate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2377. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on sodium petroleum sulfonate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 2378. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the safety of the medicare and medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. L. CHAFEE, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2379. A bill to provide for the protection of children from tobacco; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2380. A bill to provide for international family planning funding for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution supporting the Day of Honor 2000 to honor and recognize the service of minority veterans in the United States Armed Forces during World War II; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2369. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to waive federal preemption State law providing for the awarding of punitive damages against motor carriers for engaging in unfair or deceptive trade practices in the processing of claims relating to loss, damage, injury, or delay in connection with transportation of property in interstate commerce; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MOVING COMPANY RESPONSIBILITY ACT

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Moving Company Responsibility Act of 1999 to improve the protections afforded to consumers who hire moving companies to carry their possessions from one state to another. Under current law, consumers whose goods are lost or stolen during transit have no redress against moving companies that deceive or mistreat them during the claims process.

This problem was first brought to my attention by my constituents, Jane Rini and John Pucci. In 1990, Ms. Rini hired a moving company to transport her household goods from South Carolina to Massachusetts to attend Smith College's Ada Comstock Program. Among Ms. Rini's possessions were valuable original paintings and art objects that had been passed down through her family. When her belongings were delivered by the driver employed by the

moving company, Ms. Rini noticed that the boxes containing the works of art were missing. Although the company's driver was not able to locate the boxes, he demanded that Ms. Rini sign inventory sheets indicating that her goods had been properly delivered and refused to leave her house until she signed for the delivery. Under pressure, Ms. Rini signed the inventory sheets, noting on them that boxes containing the works of art were missing. She was not informed by the company that she should note missing boxes on the bill of lading, nor was she given the pamphlet containing this information, as required by federal law. The next day, Ms. Rini and her family unpacked the boxes that had been delivered and determined conclusively that eleven works of art were missing. They have never been recovered.

From that point on, Ms. Rini did everything to obtain redress that reasonably could be expected of a consumer. She filed her claim with the moving company in a timely manner, and she went to great lengths to supply the moving company's claims adjusters with all the information they needed to process her claim. However, her efforts to recover damages for the lost artwork were met with abusive and deceptive tactics seemingly designed to discourage her claim.

At the beginning of the claims process, the company demanded that Ms. Rini provide it with documentation such as canceled checks, recent appraisal information, insurance riders, or cash receipts. Ms. Rini had no recent information on the works because they had been handed down through her family for generations, but she was able to supply the company with photographs of most of the missing pieces, and she even paid for professional appraisals of the works based on the photos. She also provided the company with a letter from 1929 which reflected the authenticity of some of the pieces.

Mr. President, this should have been more than enough to satisfy the company as to the validity of Ms. Rini's claim, but the company refused to accept appraisals unless they were based upon actual examination of the objects. Meanwhile, Ms. Rini was told by a company representative that a thorough investigation of her claim would be conducted, but the representative negligently failed to interview or take written statements in a timely manner from any of the employees involved in the move who might have been able to substantiate the claim.

Almost nine months later, the company denied Ms. Rini's claim on the grounds that all items were delivered and signed for on the bill of lading without a notation indicating missing items; that the company had not received adequate documentation to substantiate Rini's claims; and that the company had not uncovered any evidence that the works had not been delivered to Northampton.